

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8527

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6067

EXDIS

FOR AID NOOTER AND NEA ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJ: INDIA CONSORTIUM MEETING

1. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE POSITION WE TAKE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AT THE INDIAN CONSORTIUM PREPARATORY MEETING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL TAKE PLACE IN PARIS NEXT WEEK, BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OVERALL STANCE CONCERNING INDIA. WE PRESUME THAT VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING THAT THE US DELEGATE SAYS AT THE FORMAL SESSION WILL GET BACK TO THE INDIANS AS WILL SOME OF THE CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS.

2. OUR CURRENT OVERALL STANCE TOWARD INDIA IS A TENTATIVE ONE. SINCE THE CHANGE IN OUR ARMS SUPPLY POLICY THERE HAS BEEN SOME STRIDENT INDIAN CRITICISM OF THE US WHICH, IF CONTINUED, MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO BRING US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE DID NOT EXIST A CLIMATE OF RELATIONS SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL INDO-US COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. IT HAS BEEN TOO EARLY TO REACH A CONCLUSION IN REGARD TO THIS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT OUR STATEMENTS NEITHER IMPLY US DECISIONS TO PROCEED WITH NEW PROGRAMS OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE "OLD MAN OUT" AT THE CONSORTIUM OR OTHERWISE NEGATIVE AND DISCOURAGING.

3. PULLING THIS TOGETHER, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE USG SPOKESMAN'S
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STATEMENT NEXT WEEK BE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. REVIEW OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE INDIAN FISCAL YEAR WHICH HAS JUST CONCLUDED, INCLUDING MUCH OF THE TITLE II PROGRAM WHICH IN TERMS OF COMMITMENTS RAN AT ABOUT \$100,000,000.

B. A STATEMENT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN DEVELOPMENT. TITLE II OF COURSE WOULD CONTINUE, "AT THIS POINT" WE HAVE INCLUDED \$75,000,000 IN THE AID BUDGET AND WOULD CONSIDER A CONTINUATION OR EVEN SOME INCREASE IN TITLE I SALES.

C. SUCH PALNNING, HOWEVER, IS TENTATIVE AND WHAT WE WILL DO WILL DEPEND UPON DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THE DESIRES OF THE GOI.

4. WE REALIZE THAT THE DEBT RESCHEDULING ISSUE WILL COME UP NEXT WEEK AND THAT THE TENTATIVE NATURE OF THE USG PRESENTATION WE ARE RECOMMENDING COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CONFLICTING WITH OUR PREFERENCE FOR FREE FOREIGN EXCHANGE/FOOD/AID AS A REPLACEMENT FOR DEBT RESCHEDULING. IF NECESSARY, WE COULD ARGUE THAT SINCE OUR TIELE I AGREEMENT WAS OVER AND ABOVE OUR FY1974/75 PLEDGE AND WE HAD INCREASED OUR TITLE II CONTRIBUTION, WE HAD ALREADY MORE THAN OFFSET OUR NONPARTICIPATION IN FY1975/76 RESCHEDULING.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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